

MWCOG 2020 Point-in-Time Count Narrative Prince William Area Continuum of Care, Virginia

Description of Homeless Services

The Prince William Area Continuum of Care (PWA CoC) is comprised of nonprofit, faith-based and government agencies across the areas of Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The PWA CoC has a comprehensive homeless response system and includes projects funded at the federal, state and local levels. Programs within the CoC include: prevention services, street outreach, day shelter (i.e. our drop-in center), emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. The CoC works closely with a variety of community partners to increase access to and coordination of services such as those related to housing, employment, benefits, education and health and wellness. Access to services is largely coordinated through the CoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES).

The PWA CoC includes multiple programs that serve persons and families experiencing homelessness. Programs include temporary shelter, overnight shelter, hypothermia shelter, hotel/motel shelter vouchers and transitional housing. The CoC has a total of 311 sheltered beds which is broken down as follows:

- Emergency Shelter Beds (total: 270)
 - Singles - 117
 - Families - 132
 - Domestic Violence - 21
- Transitional Housing Beds (total: 41)
 - Singles - 6
 - Families - 35

This reflects a 9% increase in sheltered beds since 2019 due to the addition of new hypothermia beds, hotel/motel shelter vouchers as well as increased utilization of family shelter. There was a 51% decrease in transitional housing beds from 2019 as a program no longer meets the criteria to be counted on HUD's Housing Inventory Count (i.e. the beds are no longer dedicated to homeless persons). The program maintains its relationship with the CoC and will continue to accept referrals for services.

In addition to this, the PWA CoC brought two new projects online: a HUD-funded Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project for single adults as well as a Housing Location Services project to assist homeless persons obtain permanent housing. More excitingly, the PWA CoC was awarded over \$277,000 in HUD funding as part of 2019 NOFA which house addition chronically homeless households. will fuel the development of even more permanent supportive housing beds in the next fiscal year.

Homeless Point-in-Time Results

The PWA CoC conducted its annual Point-in-Time Count the night of January 22, 2020 as well as an additional "Service-Based Count" on the following day. The CoC saw a significant increase (more than 100%) in the number of unsheltered persons counted in 2020 in comparison to last year's data.

For the 2020 PIT County, DSS took the lead role for organizing the PIT and implemented the recommended best model practices from HUD to conduct the count. This included utilizing volunteers to conduct surveys, providing incentives to those that are surveyed and mapping out the CoC using GIS tools. The CoC has also

worked to strengthen its relationships with known community-based street outreach providers. Additionally, the CoC is working to increase street outreach resources and provide training opportunities to providers.

Despite this increase, certain trends remain consistent in the unsheltered data. Unsheltered persons in the PWA CoC tend to be single adult males who identify as white and are between the ages of 25 and 54. As in previous years there were no households with children identified in the unsheltered count. One notable change from last year is that 42% of unsheltered persons reported this episode of homelessness is due to a release from an institution where only 19% of clients reported this in 2019.

The CoC saw a 30% decrease in persons in families, a 43% decrease in the number of children in families and a 9% decrease in adults in families from 2019. This information suggests the CoC is seeing smaller family sizes in the shelter system and is reflective of the CoC's prioritization process. In addition to utilizing the VI-SPDAT, the CoC uses a local prioritization score for vulnerable populations; one of which is households with children comprised of 6 or more individuals.

The Prince William Area did see a 40% increase in the number of single adults in shelter (emergency and transitional) on the 2020 PIT. This in part is due to the increase in the number of available beds for single persons as well as the fact that the hypothermia alert was active the night of the count.

In looking at received income, the CoC notes consistent data from 2019 for adults in families. There was a slight decrease for the receipt of monthly income (4%) and no change to the percentage of employed adults. For single adults, there is a 21% decrease in the number of persons receiving monthly income and an 8% increase in the number of employed adults. It is important to note the CoC saw a 53% increase in the number of single adults experiencing homelessness due to a release from an institution. This could very well explain the increase in the number of single adults as well as the decrease in received income.

The data for single adults indicates the importance of community involvement beyond homeless service providers within a CoC. The PWA CoC will continue their work to strengthen relationships with institutions to help prevent continued, increased entry into the homeless system. The data for single adults also indicates the importance of social inclusion and support for those experiencing homelessness. The family data indicates current supports and services are effective but that there is still to improvement.

Permanent, Permanent Supportive Housing & Rapid Re-housing Placements

Permanent Housing

Using HMIS data for emergency shelter, transitional housing and street outreach projects, the CoC saw 261 persons across all household types move into permanent housing other than PSH and RRH in FY19 (7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019). It also supports the CoC's efforts to provide diversion services beyond the point of coordinated entry. Under the current policy, providers attempt diversion within eight (8) days of shelter entry by providing services such as support coordination, conflict mediation, connection to benefits and temporary financial assistance. This allows the CoC to prioritize PSH and RRH resources for households without alternate housing options.

This year the CoC reclassified two projects formerly listed under PSH as “Other Permanent Housing” based on the HUD Data Standards for reporting homeless inventory. These projects offer permanent housing to single individuals with or without a disability as well as supportive services. Both projects remain at 100% capacity, as in 2019, serving a total of 9 individuals.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The CoC currently has 6 PSH projects in operation. Four (4) of these projects receive HUD-CoC funding, one (1) is VA-VASH funded and the last is funded through the state of Virginia. All PSH beds within the CoC are dedicated to chronically homeless persons and families. As previously mentioned, the CoC was awarded bonus PSH HUD funding as a result of the 2019 NOFA, which will serve 12 new households. The CoC hopes to implement at least one new PSH for next year.

Based on the 2020 PIT data, the CoC housed 41 persons in PSH across all household types. Excluding VA-VASH data (which brings the total to 30 persons) this represents a 15% increase in the number of persons housed through PSH since 2019. This data is compared to previous years in the table below:

Category	2018	2019	2020	Percent Change 2019 -2020
Persons Served	23	26	30	+15%
Available Beds	30	30	35	+17%
Utilization	77%	87%	86%	

**Data excludes VA-VASH PSH beds*

The CoC expects to continue to see an increased need for permanent supportive housing for single adults based on current data. On the 2020 PIT, 53 single adults met the definition of chronically homeless out of the 208 surveyed. This means 25% of single adults in emergency shelter or unsheltered locations qualify for PSH. This represents a 47% increase in the number of chronically homeless persons based off the 2019 data where only 19 out of the 112 persons surveyed met the definition. This increase may be due to the higher number of single adults experiencing homelessness because of a release from an institution as well as the continued lack of affordable housing in the Prince William area. The current Fair Market Rate for a single bedroom in the PWA is \$1,470 per month. Based on HMIS data, only 10% of current PSH participants earn more than the FMR for a single bedroom.

Rapid Re-Housing

The PWA CoC currently has 10 RRH projects in operation. One (1) project is HUD-CoC funded, two (2) are HUD-ESG funded, three (3) are VA-SSVF funded and four (4) through the state of Virginia. The state funded projects are in alignment with the HUD data standards and requirements for ESG funded RRH. The CoC continues to incorporate the Housing First model within all RRH programs with the goal of placing

households in stable housing as quickly as possible. The CoC also provides Housing Location Services to assist RRH providers in identifying, approving and maintaining permanent housing. Housing Locators work directly with clients and case managers to overcome household barriers and establish housing. Lastly, Housing Locators will provide mediation services between landlords and clients as issues arise to include eviction prevention.

Providers offer supportive services and practice progressive engagement with the goal of helping the household establish independence and “transition in place” in their current housing. Households are reviewed every 90 days to determine if there is a for continued financial assistance. Households may continue to receive supportive services even if there is not a need for financial assistance.

Based on 2020 PIT data, the CoC housed 136 persons in RRH across all household types. This includes 66 households, 78 adults and 58 children. This represents a 20% decrease in the number of persons housed through RRH since 2019. This data is compared to previous years in the table below:

Category	2018	2019	2020	Percent Change 2019 - 2020
Total Households	103	65	66	+2%
Total Adults	176	90	78	-13%
Total Children	108	81	58	-28%
Total Persons	284	171	136	-20%

It is important to note the decreases from 2018 – 2020 may be due to the closing of RRH projects as well as the loss of an RRH provider. Additionally, there were poor data entry practices in place such as enrolling clients into RRH simply based on shelter entry as well as not accurately capturing the Housing Move-in Date. The addition of a full-time HMIS System Administrator in early 2019 has provided more consistent monitoring and training for data entry practices.

Rapid Re-housing programs have had a significant impact on addressing homelessness within the CoC by providing stable housing without conditions and then working to address barriers. The recidivism rate for persons exiting to permanent housing remains low (3%) in both FY19 and FY18. Based on HMIS data for FY19, 82% of persons served through RRH are in permanent housing within 30 days of project start. This reduces the length of time persons are in emergency shelter or a place not meant for habitation. About 65% of adults in RRH receive monthly income and, of those adults, 73% are employed. Increased income leads to the independence and stability of households. For 68% of persons exiting RRH projects, the length of participation is less than 6 months (median stay of 137 days), which is the current CoC goal. Shorter lengths of participation ensure more households can be served using available funds. Lastly, 92% of persons in RRH exit to permanent destinations with 85% of those persons exiting to rentals without ongoing subsidies. The percentage of positive exits shows that providing immediate stability to households leads to greater success in addressing barriers and reducing risk factors that contribute to homelessness.

PWA CoC 2020 Data Charts

2020 PIT Homeless Count by Category					
Category	Total Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Total Sheltered	Total Counted
Total Number Singles	102	106	6	112	214
Total Number of Persons in Families	0	83	29	112	112
Total Number Counted	102	189	35	224	326
Total Adults in Families	0	39	15	54	54
Total Children in Families	0	44	14	58	58
Total Number Counted in Families	0	83	29	112	112
Total Number Single Households	99	99	6	105	204
Total Number Family Households	0	26	7	33	33
Total Number of Households	99	125	13	138	237

2020 Year-Round & Winter Inventory					
Project Type	Beds for Single Adults	Beds for Families	Total Beds	Year-Round Beds	Winter Beds
Emergency Shelter	117	132	249	209	40
Domestic Violence Shelter	3	18	21	21	0
Transitional Housing	6	35	41	41	
Total Beds	126	185	311	271	40

2020 PIT Count Data Trends						
Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change in Persons 2019-2020	Percent Change 2019-2020
Total Number Counted	400	374	277	326	+49	+18%
Total Number Singles	197	190	117	214	+97	+83%
Total Number of Persons in Families	203	182	160	112	-48	-30%
Total Number Families	53	54	46	33	-13	-28%

Total Adults in Families	72	70	59	54	-5	-9%
Total Children in Families	131	112	101	58	-43	-43%

PWA CoC 2020 Data Charts

2020 PIT Homeless Subpopulations			
Category	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Chronically Homeless	53	0	53
Chronic Substance Abuse	11	0	11
Severe Mental Illness	30	8	38
Co-Occurring Disorder	13	1	14
Chronic Health Problem	31	7	38
Living with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0
Physical Disability	32	6	38
Domestic Violence Victims*	56	18	74
Limited English Proficiency	44	8	52
Foster Care History	13	5	18
Formerly Institutionalized	61	11	72
Veterans	15	1	16

*Adults with a DV experience any time in the past as well as those who are currently homeless due to DV

2020 PIT Homeless Subpopulations Data Trends						
Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change in Persons 2019-2020	Percent Change 2019-2020
Chronically Homeless	76	42	24	53	+30	+120%
Chronic Substance Abuse	31	23	11	11	0	0%
Severe Mental Illness	26	36	26	38	+12	+46%
Co-Occurring Disorder	17	10	12	14	+2	+17%
Chronic Health Problem	36	39	19	38	+19	+100%
Living with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Physical Disability	19	31	16	38	+22	+138%
Domestic Violence Victims*	8	18	33	74	+41	+115%
Limited English Proficiency	15	29	22	52	+30	+136%
Foster Care History	19	21	6	18	+12	+200%

Formerly Institutionalized	54	49	23	72	+49	+213%
Veterans	22	36	10	16	+6	+60%

**Adults with a DV experience any time in the past as well as those who are currently homeless due to DV*